



West Valley Slammers
Board of Directors Meeting
May 5, 2025

Meeting Minutes

I. Roll Call

Nikki Pirotta (president), Lindsey Kouvaris (secretary), Michelena Goddard, Joe Rogove, Steve Eggers, Brandon Rosato, Jenny Rempel, Matt Sims, Dan Fukuyama (via proxy to Matt Sims), Marcy Sandoval, JR Sandoval, Ben Skinner, Megan Wikramanayake, Cat D'Aulerio, Angela White, Holly Carwana, Jason Griggs, Brandon Studley, Denise Chan (remotely), Lisa Fukuyama, Lauren Matheny, Carrie Moreno (remotely)

Six members of the public were present.

II. Confirmation of Quorum and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

III. Public Comment Time (2 min. per comment)

No public comments were held at this time. Brian Skarbek spoke later on the agenda since a game conflict prevented him from attending the start of the meeting.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 31 meeting via unanimous consent. The motion passed.

V. Cause for Applause

- A. Kudos to Megan, Lisa, Denise, Lauren, Steve, and Jeff Bowman for the organization of and communication about All Star tryouts.
- B. Thank you to the whole board for all of your work pulling off the spring season.
- C. Bravo to Jenny for the creativity and organization of a super-successful Hit-a-Thon.
- D. Thank you to Angela for fulfilling all of our volunteer needs.
- E. Thanks to Brandon S. for his ongoing work on the web.
 1. There was a brief discussion of the scope of Brandon's role. A motion was made by unanimous consent to change the title of the role from Webmaster to Technology Director. The motion passed.
 2. At the next meeting, Brandon S. will suggest edits to his position description in the Bylaws.

VI. Financial Report

- A. The Board reviewed the April financial statement. April is not traditionally a money-making month since the league has a lot of expenditures toward the close of the season. Although expenses are higher than our income this month, we are still in a good financial position overall.
- B. The Board reviewed the year-to-date summary. Departments can use this information to determine what their spending has been and better determine their budgetary needs for next year.
- C. There was a brief discussion of how the annual budget was constructed in past years. Joe provide insight from his time as president. Joe and Ben agreed to look at previous budgets together and then Ben and Nikki will begin building the budget for next year.
- D. A question was raised about what types of payments the Snack Shack currently collects (cash, credit card, and Venmo). When people pay by Venmo, the volunteers are supposed to mark it as “other payment” so that it can be tracked.
- E. Nikki mentioned that the iPad needs to be replaced because it is not able to support the needed updates for the Square system we use.

VII. 2025 All Stars Update

- A. Rachel Fuccella raised the idea of an 8U developmental summer program that would support current 8U players with once-a-week practices and scrimmages.
 - 1. Participants would spend one hour running through stations and one hour scrimmaging.
 - 2. The program would have two goals.
 - a) To develop players.
 - b) To empower female volunteers as coaches and assistant coaches.
 - 3. The developmental program would also be a good way to get local high school students involved. They can inspire young players and also complete their needed volunteer hours.
 - 4. A question was raised about whether there was enough interest to sustain the program. Based on feedback and observations from the All Star tryouts, the All Star Committee and additional board members agreed there is.
 - 5. Rachel was asked what she would need from the league to sustain the program. She said assistance with communication about the program’s existence, a field, equipment, balls, and reversible jerseys.
 - 6. Rachel was asked to come up with a rough budget and a per-player amount assuming 24 participants.
 - 7. A motion by unanimous consent was made to approve the program. The motion passed.
- B. 8U All Stars Update
 - 1. 8U had a lot of really good players come to tryouts. The red and blue teams will most likely be composed of second year players. This raised

the concern that next year the 8U All Star teams would be composed of players with no tournament experience. As a result, the All Star Committee approved a third team which will play in the rec All Star division.

C. Tryouts

1. All Stars tryouts went well. This year we allowed more time than last year for each division. The divisional tryouts ran smoothly and efficiently. Coaches did a good job collaborating and had a plan in place on how to run the tryout for each division.
2. Parents were able to meet the All Star coaches since coach selection was largely complete ahead of tryouts.
3. Coaches turned in their evaluations right away. Megan added the scores to a spreadsheet and coaches began making calls Sunday night.
4. Uniform fittings are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday.

D. Teams

1. 8U will have Red, Blue, 8U rec, and the developmental team.
2. 10U will have two teams—one coached by Eric Dixon and one coached by Ben Vargas. We had a potential for a third coach. His daughter falls in the top six that are slated to go to the second team. Coach Vargas and the player's father are going to discuss whether that is the right fit.
3. We may have numbers to make a third team in 10U, but there are some outstanding questions re: pitching that cannot be answered until the first two teams are fully formed.
4. There was also a parent who proposed something similar to Rachel's idea for a 10U developmental summer team. No formal proposal has been made at this time.

E. All Star Fees

1. Most coaches are looking to play between 4-7 tournaments. Last year the fee was \$850.
 - a) Tournament fees have raised slightly. USA Softball fees tend to be slightly higher than AST.
 - (1) We should ensure that if teams play in AST tournaments they are still eligible to play USA Softball B.
 - b) Lisa and Ben will work offline to review last year's All Star budget and make adjustments as needed. Then, they will create a set fee for all teams. If a team wants to play more than the allotted number of tournaments, the team will need to cover those expenses independently.
 - c) Ben will create team-specific spreadsheets. We will also offer a payment plan similar to what we did last year.

VIII. South Bay Sports and Training

- A. Ben Sanguinetti, general manager of South Bay sports, came to speak about his business, which is a WVS sponsor, and its offerings. He mentioned that WVS families can get \$25 for unlimited hitting all year long.
- B. Ben also spoke about his real estate business.

- C. A question was asked about the possibility of doing on-site clinics with South Bay Sports. Ben said to reach out to discuss more.

IX. Vote on Playing Rules

- A. Brian Skarbek shared copies of the letter he previously submitted to the Board via email. He stated that his team has been using GoRoute pitch comms to call pitches throughout the season. These one-way communications devices are allowed per USA Softball rules. Brian argued that the Board should not outlaw the use of pitch comms and certainly not for the remainder of the season. He stated that changing the rule during the course of the season would put his team unfairly as a disadvantage. He also noted that his daughter finds them easier to use than traditional finger signs, which can be confusing and/or difficult to process quickly.
- B. Brian noted that the revised playing rules were not properly posted and that the proposed changes were unclear.
 - 1. Upon verifying that the posted document did not reflect the proper changes due to technological errors (the markup did not show in the PDF), the vote was tabled. The proposed changes will be re-posted and the discussion and vote will be revisited at the next board meeting.

X. Hit-aThon Update

- A. 99 Pledges was a great addition. We raised \$24,841. 99Pledges charges processing fees for credit card transactions, which comes to about \$1,100.
 - 1. Jenny reviewed the breakdown of funds raised and detailed monies spent in each area. The event had a net benefit of more than \$21,000.

XI. Sponsorship Update

- A. What is the process if a summer team secures a sponsor and wants to create a banner?
- B. The Exec Board will vet any potential sponsors and approve as appropriate.
- C. A question was raised regarding how individual sponsorships/donations should be handled. It was agreed that best practice is to route potential team-specific sponsorships, financial or in-kind donations to the Exec Board for approval before the sponsorship/donation is accepted.

XII. Volunteer Update

- A. Angela is still inputting data from All Star tryouts.
- B. Barring that data, we still have 83 families who need hours. Just over 40 still need 6 hours. The assumption is that those families do not intend to volunteer and will need to follow through with the buyout.
- C. The other families have a smaller number of hours to complete, ranging from 0.5 to 2. Angela asked the Board whether we could prorate the buyout fee. There was general agreement that if prorating can be managed administratively, then prorated buyouts are okay.

XIII. Schedule Updates

- A. Losing three weekends in a row with Easter, Hit-a-Thon, and All Star tryouts was a challenge for make-up games.
- B. A suggestion was made to build in a makeup weekend next year.
- C. Nikki requested the use of city fields in the summer. She will know soon what is available and we will negotiate as needed to secure fields.

XIV. Equipment/Snack Shack Update

- A. We need to set a date for equipment/key return and end-of-season deep clean.
- B. JR has already started collecting equipment. He would like volunteer support on a Saturday/Sunday to sort through and repack equipment.
- C. JR will work with Angela to identify a date. Snack Shack deep clean will happen on the same day.

XV. Closing Ceremonies/Championship Games Update

- A. 6U games will happen in the morning.
- B. Closing ceremony will happen immediately thereafter. That will flow into pancake breakfast. We will have tie-dye while supplies last, an updated version of the Pitch Bursts, and a few other things. There was a brief discussion about volunteer support
- C. There was some discussion about the order of operations for the day with forecast hot weather.

XVI. Election Update

- A. So far voter turnout is low. Lindsey asked Board members to encourage families to vote.
- B. Election Runner will tally the votes and results will be reported to membership shortly thereafter.
- C. There was a question about the eligibility of one of the candidates. Holly noted that the Exec Board is aware of the question and is meeting after the Board meeting to discuss this in conjunction with two grievances that have been filed.

XVII. Bagby Classic

- A. Lindsey reviewed her conversation with the Bagby principal regarding summer construction plans. They are undertaking a number of projects around campus, including updates to the school building, removing the ATLC portable building, and replacing a play structure.
- B. There was discussion of a variety of options ranging from moving the tournament date to moving the tournament location.
- C.
- D. The idea of renting Arcadia was raised. Hosting at Arcadia (if available) would impact the league's profits due to loss of Snack Shack revenue.
- E. Canceling the tournament could affect All Star fees since WVS teams get free admission. It could also affect team participation in the Briski tournament because we usually do that as a swap.
- F. The idea was raised about moving the tournament to fall.

G. A motion was made and seconded to cancel the Bagby Classic tournament on Father's Day weekend and move to a date TBD in fall.

XVIII. Begin Planning Fall Season

A. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

XIX. Next Meeting: Monday, June 2, 2025

A. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Items Approved Via Email

- The Board approved \$3,400 for end-of-season awards.
- The Board gave preliminary approval to changes to the Playing Rules (outlined in [03.31.25 minutes](#)) to post on the website.
- The Board approved \$523+tax for the creation of "No Parking" signs.

Upcoming Dates

May 10	Closing Ceremonies/Championship games
June 2	Board of Directors meeting, 7 p.m.
June 14-15	Bagby Classic